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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks which follow.

I. Disposition of the Claims

Claims 20 and 22-40 are pending in this application. Claim 21 has been cancelled. The remaining claims have been amended as set forth above. New matter has not been added by these amendments.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 33-39 because in the previous reply two claims were numbered 33. Claims 33-39 have been renumbered as claims 33-40. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested. The new numbering will be adhered to in the remainder of this reply.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 20-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,382). Claim 21 has been cancelled. Accordingly, rejection of claim 21 is moot. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 20 and 22-40 is respectfully requested.

Jenner et al. disclose an optical component (100) which comprises a mounting structure (102) and an optical element (104). The mounting structure (102) includes a base (110), an optical element interface (112), and left and right armatures (114a, 114b) which connect the base to the optical element interface. The base (110) includes alignment features (116) which mate with opposite-gendered alignment features of an optical bench (10). The alignment features are shown as grooves in the bottom of the base and the top of the optical bench.

Jenner et al. do not disclose securing the base (110) to the optical bench (10) using flexible gripping elements. In contrast, amended claim 20 recites "securing and passively aligning one or more of the bases to a substrate using one or more second flexible gripping elements on the substrate." Similarly, the apparatus recited in claim 28 and the optical device

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recited in claim 39 include "a substrate having one or more second flexible gripping elements at predetermined locations, each second flexible gripping element configured to secure and passively align one of the bases to the substrate." The Examiner has not cited any other references to supplement the disclosure of Jenner et al.

Because Jenner et al. do not disclose or teach securing the base (110) to the optical bench (10) using flexible gripping elements or that the optical bench has one or more flexible gripping elements at predetermined locations to passively align bases to the optical bench, claims 20, 28, and 39 are patentable over Jenner et al. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 28, and 39 over Jenner et al. is respectfully requested. Claims 22-27, 29-38, and 40, being dependent from one of claims 20, 28, and 39, are similarly patentable in view of the foregoing arguments.

IV. Conclusion

The rejected claims have been amended and/or shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicant believes that this paper is fully responsive to all the grounds of rejection cited by the Examiner in the Office Action dated July 13, 2005, and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please apply any charges or credits in connection with filing of this response to Deposit Account No. 03-3325 (Docket No. SP02-165).

Respectfully submitted,

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